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THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" (a) & (b) A boy died near the gate of the Government Women and Children Hospital, Kozhikode, on 21st December 1954. An enquiry revealed that it was not due to any negligence on the part of the hospital authorities."

* 1344 Q.—SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state : whether it is a fact that a sick child, aged about seven years, and its mother were kept waiting for about three hours by the gate-keeper of the Government Women and Children Hospital, Kozhikode, on 21st December 1954 and that the child expired in the meanwhile?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" The Hon. Member is referred to the answer to question No. 1343."

* 1345 Q.—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state : whether it is a fact that on 21st December 1954, a boy named Subramanian, seven years of age, who was suffering from severe fever and was in a serious condition, died at the gates of the Kozhikode Government Women and Children Hospital on the arms of his father as the hospital watchman did not allow them to enter the hospital to see the doctor?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" The Hon. Member is referred to the answer to question No. 1343."

* 1346 Q.—SRI K. MADHAVAN NAMBIAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have received any complaint that the gate of the Government Women and Children Hospital at Kozhikode was closed to a child in serious condition, denying entry to the hospital on 21st December 1954, which resulted in the death of the child outside the hospital for want of medical aid ; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" The hon. Member is referred to the answer to question No. 1343."

* 1347 Q.—SRI K. C. GOPALAN UNNI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have received any complaints regarding the death of a child in the precincts of the Government Women and Children Hospital at Kozhikode, owing to the neglect of the hospital staff;

(b) whether the Government made any enquiry in the matter; and

(c) if so, what is the result of the enquiry?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" The hon. Member is referred to the answer to question No. 1343."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" May I know from the Hon. Minister whether an enquiry has been made and whether a report has been

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submitted by those who enquired? May I also inform the Hon. Minister that what he has stated is not correct? The boy died at the gate of the hospital."

MR. SPEAKER :—" The hon. Member is making a statement."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" I want to state that what the Hon. Minister has stated is wrong. I want to know who conducted the enquiry. Where is the report of the enquiry? I want to know whether the District Medical Officer has submitted any report."

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" I have said in my answer that the boy died at the gate of the hospital. Probably the hon. Member did not listen to what I said. He was thinking of the supplementary questions. The District Medical Officer enquired into this matter. The father of the boy gave the complaint only on the 16th January, when this incident had in fact happened on the 21st December. Action has been taken against the gate-man on account of certain negligence in the performance of his duties."

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" The father of the deceased boy (Subrahmanyam) had taken the boy to the hospital; the boy was suffering seriously and the boy had he been admitted to the hospital as an in-patient and attended to by a doctor could have been saved. But the gate-keeper did not admit the boy and the boy died at the gate. In the light of the seriousness of the crime the gate-keeper had committed, what action the Government propose to take against the gate-keeper even now and may I know what action had been taken against the gate-keeper?"

MR. SPEAKER :—" The Minister has already given the answer regarding the action taken against the gate-keeper."

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" The boy was brought by his father with a letter from Dr. C. K. Menon to a relation of his, viz., Dr. Kumari Radha, Assistant Surgeon of the Women and Children Hospital, That letter from Dr. C. K. Menon was shown by the father of the boy to the gate-keeper. The gate-man said that the doctors were engaged in the operation theatre. So the father, and the boy waited at the gate and a few minutes later there was a call for the gate-man to carry a stretcher; it was an emergency call. The gate-man shut the gate and went there. By the time he returned, this letter was taken to find out the lady doctor. But she was not available and when the cousin of the boy returned, the boy was found dead. The boy was at the gate for 20 or 25 minutes."

DR. K. B. MENON :—" Has the Hon. Minister any information as to what the child was suffering from and why it so suddenly died?" 9 a.m.

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" It must have been a very serious case. The boy must have been on the verge of death.

The relations of the boy could have taken him to the Casualty department without waiting to deliver the letter to the Lady Assistant Surgeon.''

SRI S. SWAYAMPRAKASAM :—'' Is there anything in the report of the District Medical Officer who has conducted the inquiry as to the time at which the child was brought to the hospital and when the District Medical Officer or any other doctor of the hospital attended to this case? ''

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—'' The boy was brought to the hospital at about 2-30 p.m. and he died at about 2-55 p.m.''

SRI S. R. ARUMUGAM :—'' இந்த சுப்பிரமணியம் செத்ததற்கும், அங்கிருக்கக்கூடிய கம்யூனிஸ்டுகளுக்கும் ஏதாவது சம்பந்தம் உண்டா ? ''

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—'' This is a very important question. The Government have failed in their duty. They have never instituted a public inquiry. This is a question which has given rise to a lot of agitation in Malabar. Therefore, I request the Hon. Speaker to allow a half-hour debate on this subject.''

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—'' Very recently, the House has debated the Demands relating to Public Health and Medicine. This question could have been discussed at that time. I do not think we should have a half-hour debate on this subject.''

MR. SPEAKER :—'' I shall consider the request.''

Co-operative Cattle-breeding Societies in South Arcot.

* 1348 *Q.*—SRI M. JAGANNATHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of co-operative cattle-breeding societies in South Arcot district; and

(*b*) the number of bulls maintained by those societies during 1954–55?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—'' (*a*) There are no cattle-breeding societies in the South Arcot district.

'' (*b*) Does not arise.''

SRI M. JAGANNATHAN :—'' In view of the paramount importance of cattle-breeding, may I know whether the Government will come forward to encourage the starting of cattle-breeding societies in South Arcot district? ''

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—'' The Government will examine that suggestion.''